(d) The criteria prescribed by NABARD for sanction of financial assistance *inter-alia* includes :

(i) Schemes which are found technically feasible, economically viable and bankable are eligible for NABARD refinance assistance;

(ii) The quantum of refinance depends on the purpose and the agency;

(iii) The eligibility of banks to draw refinance from NABARD under schematic lending is linked to their recovery performance also; and

(iv) NABARD may consider providing special exemption from/relaxation in the eligibility criteria for extending refinance to banks for thrust areas such as watershed development projects, 100% export oriented schemes, wastelands' development projects on merits of the case and on the basis of specific requests from the banks.

STATEMENT

(Rs. in lakhs)

Purpose	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97 (upto 31.8.96)
Minor Irrigation	729.8	536.5	455.8	153.1
Rural Electrification Corpn.	1340.3	2199.8	1275.5	—
Land Development	55.2	32.7	106.4	1.4
Farm Mechanisation	4112.3	4585.5	4654.8	2312.5
Plantation & Horticulture	754.8	1368.9	553.2	215.1
Dairy Development	2870.0	3183.0	3662.8	1143.8
Poultry	650.7	1006.3	1624.4	148.5
Sheep/Goat/Piggery	2818.4	3365.9	3470.6	1343.1
Fishery	693.1	689.8	674.0	10.2
Sericulture	151.1	95.5	136.1	79.4
Storage/Market Yard	2.8	10.4	37.7	—
Forestry	151.0	145.2	88.9	27.7
Seed	—	93.1	36.7	0.2
Agro-Industries	168.1	71.3	547.4	0.5
Biogas	233.0	163.1	117.7	31.9
IRDP	—	1531.3	1160.2	514.1
Non-Farm Sector	6676.0	3401.8	4394.4	3369.1
Others	—	3338.9	3610.7	64.0
Total	21406.6	25819.0	26607.3	9414.6

[Translation]

Obara Carpet Industry

5753. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES to pleased to state :

(a) whether the Obara Carpet Industry of Bihar which had received President's award is lying closed from quite some time; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to provide assistance for the revival fo this industry ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) Government is not aware of the fact that the Obra Carpet Industry of Bihar is lying closed from quite some time. It is estimated that there are nearly 275 looms operating in and around obra.

(b) For development of Obra carpets in the State of Bihar, the Government of India has set up a Carpet Weaving Training Centre at Kharanti, P.O. Obra which endeavours to upgrade the skills of carpet weavers in the region. Since its inception in 1987, 165 trainees have been trained so far and they are gainfully employed in the same trade. The exporters participate in various international trade fairs through the Carpet Export Promotion Council for boosting exports of Obra carpets among others.

[English]

Merger of Nationalised Banks

5754. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering any proposal for merger of nationalised banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for such proposals and objective of such merger ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Production and Export of Mica and Mica Paper

5755. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total production of Mica and Mica Paper in the country and the total quantity exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years;

(b) whether any export of the above items declined during the Eighth Plan in comparison to Sixth and Seventh Plan;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of those items ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The details of total production of mica and Mica paper, total quantity exported and foreign exchange earned during the last three years are given in the Statement attached.